DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 369 239 EC 302 970

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TITLE	Bridging Early Services for Children with Special Needs and Their Families: A Practical Guide for Transition Planning.
REPORT NO	ISBN-1-55766-160-X
PUB DATE	94
NOTE	318p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Paul H. Brooks Publishing, Co., P.O. Box 10624, Baltimore, MD 22185-0624.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055) -- Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Agency Cooperation; Cooperative Planning; *Disabilities; Early Childhood Education; *Early Intervention; Family Programs; Kindergarten; Legislation; *Models; Parent Participation; Preschool Children; *Program Development; Program Evaluation; Teamwork; *Transitional Programs

ABSTRACT

This volume presents a comprehensive plan for transition of children with special needs and their families between infant or early intervention services and preschool services, and between preschool services and kindergarten. It aims to help in bridging these services to minimize the stress and increase the promise of early childhood transitions. The chapters discuss: (1) a rationale for bridge-building; (2) federal and state laws and regulations and current national trends that guide transition planning; (3) elements of effective transitions and a model useful for different kinds of transitions; (4) interagency activity needed for effective transition planning, such as defining roles, responsibilities, and timelines; (5) intra-agency coordination; (6) ways for parents and professionals to collaborate; (7) practical strategies for incorporating the preferences and concerns of diverse families; (8) concepts of developmental and instructional continuity for children; (9) actions recommended for sending programs; (10) actions recommended for receiving programs; (11) guidance for interagency planning to serve young children with complex health care needs in community settings; (12) ways to evaluate transitions; (13) the larger context of transitions among early childhood services; and (14) future directions for transition planning, with suggested roles for parents, service providers, administrators, policy-makers, and researchers. Appendixes provide a list of national projects focused on transition, sample interagency agreements, sample timelines, materials for establishing a toddler transition play group, guidelines for developing a community resource directory, and sample evaluation tools. (Contains approximately 300 references.) (JDD)

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